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close of the glacial period. He concludes also that the differences in the basal deposits of these moors as compared with those of the higher Cross Fell district (upon which he reported earlier) indicate the relative time of origin.—E. N. TRANSEAU.

**Aberrant chromosomes.**—The discovery of chromosomes of different sizes in the same nucleus in plants suggests that the attention of botanists be called to the terminology just proposed by MONTGOMERY for aberrant chromosomes in Hemiptera.<sup>32</sup> The term chromosomes is retained when all the chromosomes of a nucleus are alike; when they are unlike, the name *autosoma* or *autosome* is applied to a chromosome of the usual form, and *allosoma* or *allosome* to an aberrant chromosome. Unpaired allosomes are *monosomes*, and paired allosomes are *diplosomes*.—CHARLES J. CHAMBERLAIN.

**Iron-algae.**—After observation in the field and a study of cultures, GAIDUKOV<sup>33</sup> concludes that a *Conferva* found by him in overflow pools of the Ocka river near Rjasan accumulates iron oxid from the waters, just as other algae do calcium carbonate or silica. He thinks such iron secretion not peculiar to the bacteria, but characteristic of many organisms, not as a necessary life-process; but as an adaptive one. In the present case it seems to be protective to the akinetes, which, weighted down by the iron oxid, sink to the bottom and so pass the winter.—C. R. B.

**Photosynthesis and electricity.**—POLLACCI<sup>34</sup> announces that electric energy, when it does not exceed a given intensity, promotes very much the formation of starch in leaves, and that this effect is greater with a continuous current passing directly into the interior of the organs. Electrified leaves almost deprived of light in some cases showed starch formation, when, in the same illumination, unelectrified leaves did not. In view of the recent English work on photosynthesis these conclusions should be received with reserve.—C. R. B.

**Formation of proteids.**—MONTEMARTINI<sup>35</sup> is attacking this much investigated problem. His first paper clears the ground, records once more a good part of the extensive bibliography, and details two experiments, which lead to the conclusion that the production of proteids is greater in light than in darkness, and greater in light and air minus CO<sub>2</sub> than in light and normal air. Likewise it is fivefold greater in the day than in the night, and he proposes to analyze the relation of light to this result in his later experiments.—C. R. B.

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<sup>32</sup>MONTGOMERY, THOS. H., The terminology of aberrant chromosomes and their behavior in certain Hemiptera. *Science* 23:36-38. 1906.

<sup>33</sup>GAIDUKOV, N., Ueber die Eisenalge *Conferva* und die Eisenorganismen des Süsswassers in allgemeinen. *Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesells.* 23: 250-253. 1905.

<sup>34</sup>POLLACCI, G., Influenza dell' elettricità sull' assimilazione clorofillina. *Nota preliminare. Atti Ist. Bot. Pavia II.* 11: 7-10. 1905.

<sup>35</sup>MONTEMARTINI, L., Primi studi sulla formazione delle sostanze albuminoidi nelle piante. *Atti R. Ist. Bot. Pavia II.* 10: 1-20. 1905.